REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification as originally-filed.

In accordance with the forgoing, Claims 3, 4, 8 and 15-19 have been cancelled and claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10 -12, 13 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10 -12, 13 and 20 are pending and under consideration.

On December 22, 2005, Examiner Thangavelu kindly granted the undersigned a personal interview to discuss the application. The Examiner's time in preparing for and conducting the interview is gratefully appreciated. Applicant especially appreciates the Examiner's effort in helping with proposed claim revisions.

Spanning pages 2-7 of the Office Action, the Examiner raises a plurality objections and/or rejections based primarily upon 35 U.S.C. § 112. It is hoped that the foregoing claim amendments address and overcome each of these issues.

Beginning on page 8, the Examiner rejects the claims as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,375,070 to Hershey et al. and/or rendered obvious in view of Hershey et al. and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002-0042810 to Minami et al.

Hershey et al. discloses monitoring and control of performance aspects of a network on the basis of any tracing and preprocessing of available network data (transferred frames or bits and environmental data). According to the Hershey et al. method for information collection a programmable vector generator is set up with parameters characterizing the environment for the body of data in a vector C(i). Real-time identification of event behavior is performed in the environment for the body of data using the vector C(i). The event behavior is characterized for the identified events in a vector E(i). An analysis is performed of the event behavior for the body of data in the vector E(i). Control signals are automatically generated from the analysis, and the control signals are output to modify the behavior of the body of data. See claim 1.

Minami et al. discloses an object, which is a member of a mobile object group operable to move from a first place to a second place under the control of a moderator agent. The mobile object can execute a first activity at the first place and a second activity at the second place. The object has a predecessor list having link information relative to said first activity, a successor list having link information relative to said second activity; and a moderation module for requiring said moderator agent to move from said first place to said second place. See claim 1.

It is hoped that with the somewhat extensive claim revisions, the differences between the present invention and the references will become more apparent. Withdraw of the rejections is requested.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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